



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JOHN D. CHERRY, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

October 27, 2006

Ms. Erin Collard
Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Room 7136G
1301 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Ms. Collard:

On behalf of the State of Michigan, I am pleased to nominate the "Kawkawlin River Watershed" project for your consideration for funding under the Targeted Watersheds Grant Program. The Bay County Drain Commission and their local and state partners provide a model of strong collaborative efforts to address environmental issues on a watershed basis that would serve well at a national level. The project is based on the Kawkawlin River Watershed Management Plan that was produced in a locally-led and funded process.

The State of Michigan has undertaken an effort called the Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative, bringing together local, state, and federal agencies with local interest groups, both public and private, to restore the Saginaw Bay. This project has been developed as part of that effort and is integral towards restoration of both the Kawkawlin River Watershed and Saginaw Bay. This watershed is within the Saginaw River/Bay Area of Concern, and restoration efforts included in this project will directly assist in the delisting process for this area.

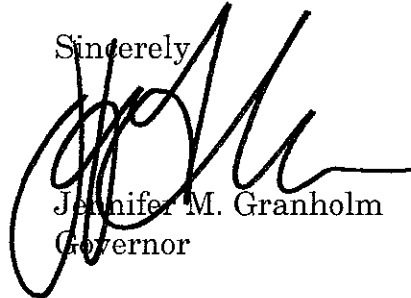
The Kawkawlin River is 37 miles long with 450 miles of tributary watercourses and a watershed area of nearly 250 square miles. The watershed consists primarily of lake plain, and most of the landscape consists of flat, lacustrine clay soils that have been artificially drained for agricultural purposes. Agriculture cropland is the primary economic activity and land use in the predominately rural watershed. The lower section of the watershed, on the Saginaw Bay, is urbanized and the upper section of the watershed is a mix of woodlands, wetlands, and low density livestock and cropland agriculture. In the headwaters, the Kawkawlin River riparian corridor is bordered mostly by forested floodplain.

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Restoration goals for the Kawkawlin River project are to reduce E. coli levels in the river to achieve Water Quality Standards, reduce sediment and nutrients to achieve an average phosphorus concentration of 0.05 milligrams per liter, implement low-impact development practices in developing areas of the watershed, and implement practices to protect and restore the natural river channel habitat and riparian greenway floodplain corridor.

The State of Michigan appreciates your consideration of this proposal. Should you require further information of a technical nature, please contact Mr. Robert Sweet, Environmental Science and Services Division (ESSD), Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), at 517-335-6967; or Ms. Amy A. Butler, Chief, ESSD, MDEQ, at 517-241-0490.

Sincerely,



Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor

- c: Mr. Dan Beattie, Governor's Washington Office
- Mr. Robert Davis, Director, Governor's Southeast Michigan Office
- Mr. Steven E. Chester, Director, MDEQ
- Mr. Stanley F. Pruss, Deputy Director, MDEQ
- Ms. JoAnn Merrick, Senior Executive Assistant to the Director, MDEQ
- Ms. Amy A. Butler, MDEQ
- Mr. James Bredin, MDEQ
- Ms. Karen Best, MDEQ
- Ms. Amy Peterson, MDEQ
- Mr. Robert Sweet, MDEQ